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Mr Marhoon Bin Ahmed Bin Salim Al Marhoon - First Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman

86 376

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Subject MR UMARHOON BIN AHMED BIN SALIM AL MARHOON

1ST. AMBASSADOR OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

86 376

RELATED PAPERS

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C. J. THOMPSON, Commonwealth Government Printer

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

سلطنة عمان

من قابوس بن سعيد

سلطان عمان

إلى حضرة صاحبة الجلالة الملكة اليزابيث الثانية ملكة المملكة المتحدة وإيرلندا الشمالية ورئيسة الكومنولث

صديقتنا العزيزة ،

لما لنا من شديد الرغبة في توثيق عرى المحبة والصداقة التي تربط لحسن الحظ بلدينا ، فقد وقع اختيارنا على سعادة مرهون بن أحمد بن سالم المرهون ، ليكون سفيرنا فوق العادة ومفوضا غير مقيم لدى جلالتكم ، وإنا ما خبرناه من ولائه وإخلاصه في خدمتنا وما عرفناه من مقدرته في المناصب التي تقلدها ليجعل لنا وطيد الأمل في أن يكون النجاح حليفه في تأدية المهمة الرفيعة التي عهدنا إليه بها .

واعتمادنا على غيرته وعلى ما سيبذل من صادق الجهد ليكون أهلا لعطف جلالتكم وحسن تقديركم ، فإننا نرجو أن تتفضلوا فتحوطوه بتأييدكم وتولوه رعايتكم وتتلقوا منه بالقبول وتمام الثقة ما يبلغه إليكم من جانبنا ولا سيما عندما يحظى بشرف الإعراب لجلالتكم عما نتمناه لشخصكم العظيم من العز والسعادة ولبلادكم وشعبكم من الرغد والسؤدد .

صدر عنا بقصرنا في مسقط بتاريخ الرابع عشر من صفر عام ١٤٠٧ الهجري
الموافق التاسع عشر من أكتوبر عام ١٩٨٦ الميلادي

OFFICE OF THE
11 MAR 1987
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

17th February, 1987.

My dear Governor-General,

The Queen has commanded me to thank you for your letter of 6th February, with which you enclosed the Letters of Credence which you had received in Her Majesty's name from the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman. I have laid these before The Queen, and am returning them herewith.

Yours sincerely,
Kenneth Scott

(KENNETH SCOTT)

His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia.

Government House,
Canberra ACT 2600

12 March 1987

Dear Mr Allen,

I write to let you know that the Letters of Credence of Mr Marhoon bin Armed bin Salim Al Marhoon as Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Australia were laid before Her Majesty The Queen on 17 February 1987.

The documents are now in the Governor-General's records.

Yours sincerely,

C. M. BELL

(David I. Smith)
Official Secretary to the
Governor-General

Mr G.C. Allen,
Chief of Protocol,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Government House,
Canberra ACT 2600.

6 February 1987

Your Majesty,
Madam,

I have this day, in Your Majesty's name and on your behalf, received from Mr Marhoon bin Ahmed bin Salim Al Marhoon Letters of Credence by which he is accredited as the first Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Australia.

I enclose the Credentials of the Ambassador, together with English translations, for Your Majesty's pleasure and I understand that you will be pleased to cause the documents to be returned to me in due course.

I have the honour to remain, Madam
Your Majesty's most obedient
humble servant

N. M. STEPHEN

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S REPLY TO THE REMARKS OF THE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN, ON THE PRESENTATION OF HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE

CANBERRA - 9.15 A.M. FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 1987

Your Excellency,

In the name of Her Majesty The Queen of Australia and on her behalf I accept with pleasure the Letters of Credence by which His Majesty The Sultan of Oman appoints you Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Oman to Australia.

As you have observed, despite geographical separation and differing historical and cultural traditions, our two countries share similar concerns in the face of continuing international problems.

..2/

In recent days the visit of our Prime Minister to the Middle East has focussed our attention on the deep and longstanding problems of the people of the region. Australia has an active and strong interest in seeing the long standing Arab/Israeli dispute reach a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement. There can be no such settlement without full recognition of the rights of Israel to exist within secure boundaries and of the rights of the Palestinian people to self determination, including the right, if they so chose, to independence and the possibility of their own independent state.

The Gulf War, now in its seventh year, continues to exact a high cost in human and economic resources. Australia, during its period as President of the United Nations Security Council in 1985 and 1986, tried to establish a stronger framework for peace negotiations, unfortunately without success.

The international effects of these disputes have important consequences for both Australia and Oman, each in their own way adopting a careful, balanced and far-sighted approach to their resolution.

..3/

Your Excellency,

I have noted with genuine satisfaction the progress and development of the relations between Oman and Australia. Since before the time Australia's first Ambassador was accredited to Oman in 1981, Australia and Oman have exchanged high level visits, the latest being the visit of the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Evans, to Muscat in 1986. These have served to further strengthen the links between our two countries. We recall with warmth and pleasure Deputy Prime Minister Zawawi's visit to Australia in 1985.

Omanis have had a long and distinguished history as sea-farers. As a guardian of the internationally recognised shipping lanes through the Hormuz Strait, Oman has accepted a heavy responsibility on behalf of the international community. Much of Australia's trade traverses the Indian Ocean, including nearly all of our imported oil, and we are conscious of the service which the Sultan of Oman's Navy provides in patrolling this vital Strait.

..4/

Your Excellency,

Oman's long cultural traditions stretch into history far beyond those which have grown up in Australia following the arrival of European settlers to this continent, nearly 200 years ago. Australia has become, through successive waves of migration, a pluralistic and multicultural society. A large number of Arab settlers have added valuable dimensions to life in Australia, as have a wide range of other migrant groups. The year 1988 will highlight the growth of our society through our Bicentennial celebrations. Amongst the numerous international participants we hope to see Oman's tall ship, the naval training ship "Shabab Oman". We recall, with pleasure, the popular participation of the Omani Royal Guard Band in one of our major festivals in 1985.

Your Excellency,

In the spirit of welcome I thank you for your expressions of warm greeting from His Majesty the Sultan of Oman and take this opportunity to return my best wishes to His Majesty and to the people of Oman.

..5/

I welcome you to Australia and hope that your visits to this country will realise the full promise which the good relations between our two countries contain.

PRESENTATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY

MR MARHOON BIN AHMED BIN SALIM AL MARHOON

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

9.15 A.M. FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 1987

Dress: Morning Dress with Decorations.

1. 8.45 a.m. Miss E. Walker (Protocol Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs) leaves Government House for the Lakeside Hotel, Canberra to meet the Ambassador-designate of the Sultanate of Oman, in a Rolls-Royce with Police Motor Cycle Escort.

2. 8.56 a.m. Miss Walker presents herself to the Ambassador-designate and invites him to accompany her to Government House.

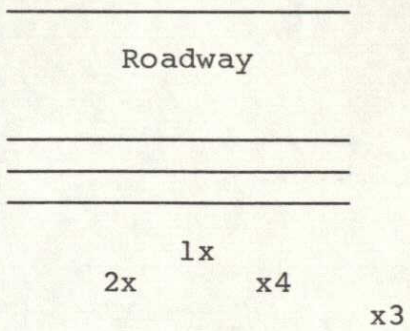
3. 9.01 a.m. The Ambassador-designate and Miss Walker leave for Government House in the Rolls-Royce with Police Motor Cycle Escort.

(The Guard and Band to be in position by 9.07 a.m.)

4. 9.12 a.m. The Ambassador-designate and Miss Walker arrive at the State Entrance to Government House. The Ambassador-designate alights from the left-hand side, and is met by Lieutenant V.B. Hyam, ADC, RAN.

../2

The Ambassador-designate and party move to a position in the centre of the Portico facing the Guard of Honour as follows:



1. The Ambassador-designate
2. Mr Allen
3. Miss Walker
4. Lieutenant Hyam

When all are standing in position the Guard Commander (Major P.M. Stevens, RA Inf) orders "General Salute - Present Arms".

(The Guard of Honour is provided by Army Office, Canberra, and the Band by the Royal Military College, Duntroon.)

On completion of the General Salute, the Ambassador-designate enters Government House where Lieutenant Hyam presents the following:

Mr D.I. Smith, AO, CVO	-	Official Secretary
Mr K.L. Brown	-	Deputy Official Secretary
Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Warner, RAA	-	Military Secretary/ Comptroller
Mrs L. Lawless	-	Research Officer
Flight Lieutenant P.N. Wood	-	Aide-de-Camp (Air Force)
Captain J.M. Quirk, RA Inf	-	Aide-de-Camp (Army)

Mr G.C. Allen, (Chief of Protocol, Department of Foreign Affairs) conducts the Ambassador-designate into the Drawing Room through Doorway No. 2, to the position shown below.

../3

Personal Staff move through Doorway No. 1 to the positions shown below.

5. 9.14 a.m. Captain Quirk informs His Excellency of the arrival of the Ambassador-designate and conducts Mr D.M. Sadleir into the Drawing Room through Doorway No. 1.

Lieutenant Hyam conducts His Excellency into the Drawing Room.

10x	11x	12x
9x	8x	7x
3x		6x

Doorway
No. 1 1x

2x

Doorway 4x
No. 2 5x

1. His Excellency
2. Ambassador-desingate
3. Mr Sadleir
4. Mr Allen
5. Miss Walker
6. Mr Smith
7. Mr Brown
8. Lieutenant Colonel Warner
9. Mrs Lawless
10. Lieutenant Hyam
11 Captain Quirk
12. Flight Lieutenant Wood

6. 9.15 a.m. Mr Allen formally presents the Ambassador-designate to His Excellency.

The Ambassador-designate speaks.

The Ambassador-designate hands his Letters of Credence to His Excellency.

His Excellency replies.

His Excellency shakes hands with the Ambassador.

../4

His Excellency presents Mr Sadleir to the Ambassador.

7. 9.20 a.m. His Excellency invites the Ambassador and Mr Sadleir to accompany him through Doorway No. 2 to the Study. The Personal Staff remain in the Drawing Room.

8. 9.35 a.m. His Excellency, the Ambassador and Mr Sadleir are conducted by Lieutenant Hyam through the Private Entrance to where group photographs are taken.

9. 9.40 a.m. After the photographs, His Excellency and the Ambassador re-enter the House where the Ambassador takes leave of His Excellency.

The Ambassador is conducted to the State Entrance by Lieutenant Hyam.

The members of the Personal Staff are re-presented to the Ambassador.

His Excellency and Mr Sadleir retire to the Study.

The Ambassador is conducted from the State Entrance to the Saluting Point in front of the Guard of Honour by Lieutenant Hyam. (See Annex A)

Personal Staff move to positions in front of the Doorway. (See Annex A)

When the Ambassador is in position, the Guard Commander orders: "Royal Salute - Present Arms".

The Band plays the National Anthem of the Sultanate of Oman.

The Guard Commander reports to the Ambassador that the Guard of Honour and the Band are ready for inspection.

The Ambassador inspects the Guard of Honour and then the Band. (Inspection Route - See Annex A)

On completion of the inspection, Lieutenant Hyam conducts the Ambassador to the Rolls-Royce.

../5

10. 9.50 a.m. The Ambassador and Mr Allen and Miss Walker leave Government House in the Rolls-Royce with Police Motor Cycle Escort.

(The Guard of Honour accords the Ambassador a Royal Salute as the Rolls-Royce moves off.)

11. As convenient: Mr Sadleir takes leave of His Excellency and is conducted to the Private Entrance by Captain Quirk.

Vincent Hyam.

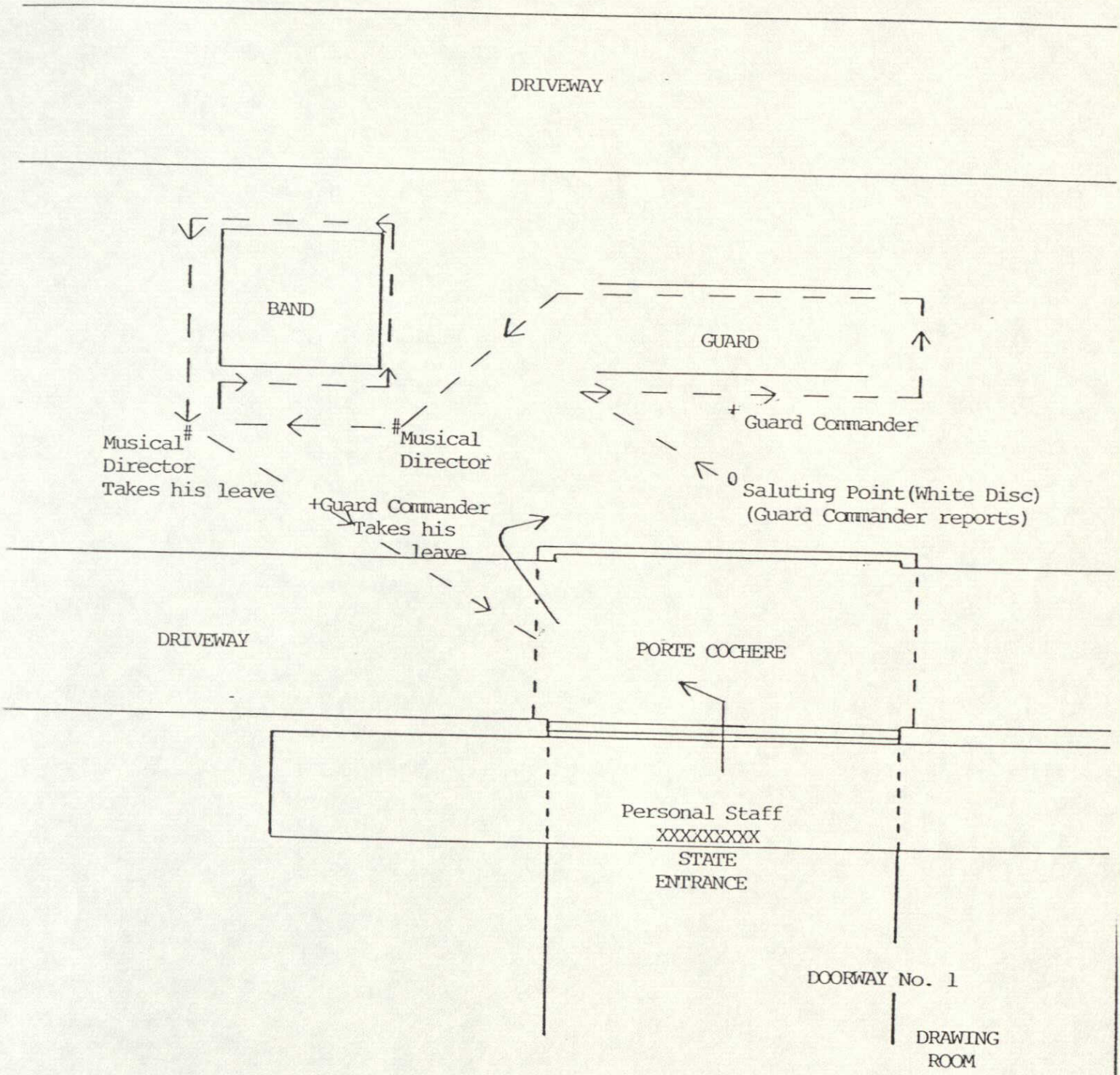
(V.B. HYAM)
Lieutenant, RAN
Aide-de-Camp to the Governor-General

29 January 1987

Annex: A. Inspection Route.

ANNEX A

INSPECTION ROUTE



PRESENTATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY

MR MARHOON BIN AHMED BIN SALIM AL MARHOON

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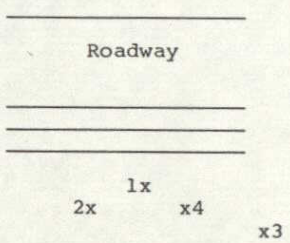

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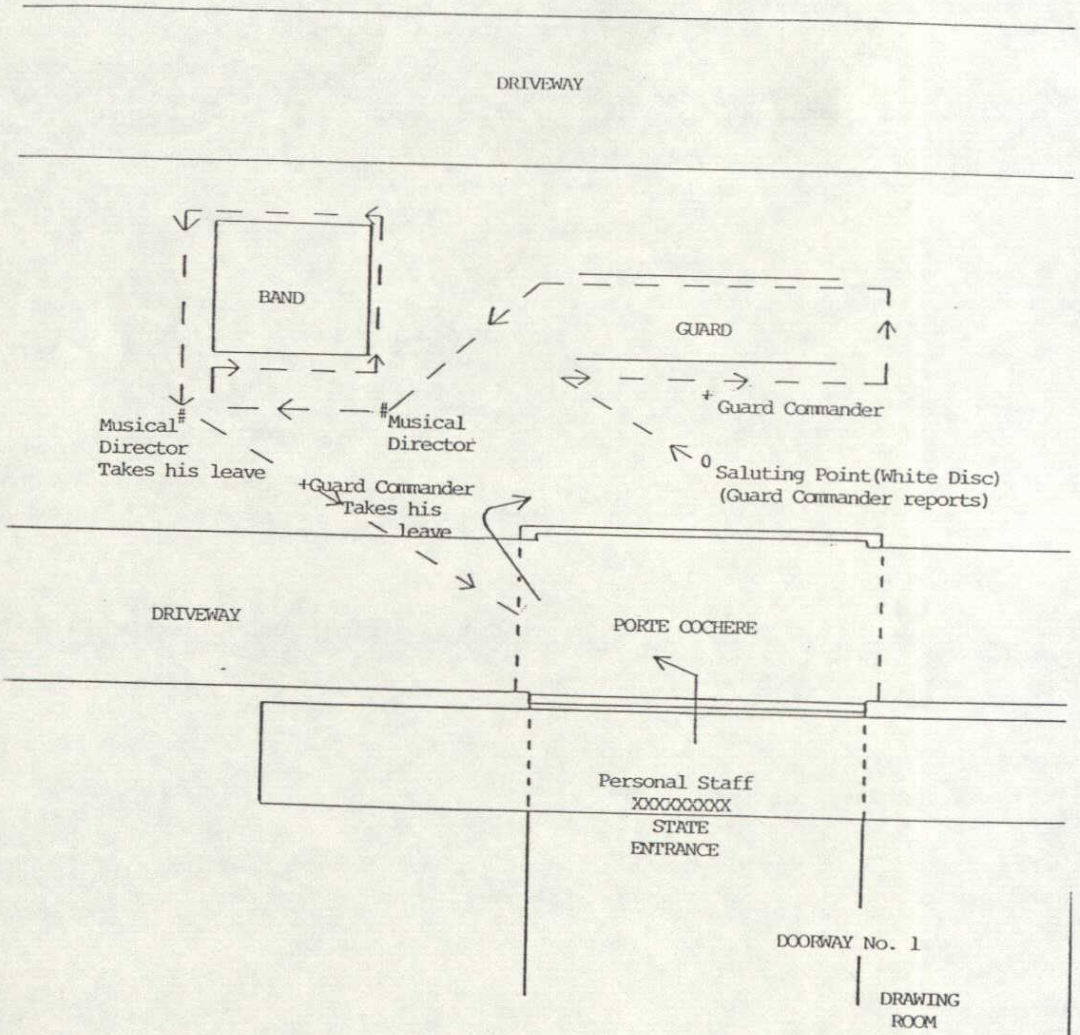
INSPECTION ROUTE

ANNEX A



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Vincent Hyam.

(V.B. HYAM)
Lieutenant, RAN
Aide-de-Camp to the Governor-General

29 January 1987

Annex: A. Inspection Route.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

4 February 1987

Mr David I. Smith, AO, CVO
Official Secretary to His Excellency
the Governor-General
Government House
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Smith,

Credentials Ceremony

Ambassador-designate of the Sultanate of Oman

Attached for your attention please are:

(a) Copy of the text of the Ambassador-designates's speech.

(b) Draft Speech in Reply for consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General.

(c) Copy of Original Letter of Credence (translation to come)

(d) Background briefing note on Oman

(e) Biographical notes on the Ambassador-designate

(f) Car Pennant.

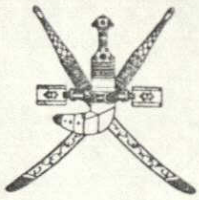
The Ambassador-designate will be unaccompanied at the Credentials Ceremony. While in Canberra Mr Marhoon is staying at the Lakeside Hotel.

The Minister's Representative will be Mr D.M. Sadleir.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth H. Walker

(Elisabeth H. Walker)
A/g Deputy Chief of Protocol



A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF THE COUNSELLOR

MARHOON BIN AHMED BIN SALIM AL MARHOON

NAME:		Marhoon bin Ahmed bin Salim Al Marhoon
DATE OF BIRTH:		1944
SOCIAL STATUS:		Married with two children
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:		Second Year Secondary. English Language Cerfificate from the British Council.
EXPERIENCE:	-	Four years experience with Lyeng-Wimpey Construction Company, Jidda, Saudi Arabia; Four years experience with the Aramco Company in Saudi Arabic; one and a half years experience with the Salalah Customs.
1.1.1974	-	Transferred from the Customs Department in Salalah and appointed as Third Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and posted in the Omani Embassy in Cairo.
1.7.1976	-	Promoted to the post of Second Secretary in the said Embassy.
1.7.1978	-	Transferred from the Omani Embassy in Cairo to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Muscat and posted in the Political Department and was later appointed as Director of the Fourth Department.
1.7.1979	-	Promoted to the post of First Secretary
28.4.1982	-	Appointed as Assitant Head of the Department of European and American Affairs.
1.7.1982	-	Promoted to the post of First Secretary (Segment one, Grade six)
25.8.1983	-	Promoted to the grade of Counsellor
21.1.1984	-	Given the title of Ambassador and appointed as the Sultanate's Ambassador to Japan and he is still holding this appointment.
LANGUAGES:	-	English in addition to Arabic.

RESTRICTED

OMAN

Internal

- Oman's population was estimated to be 1.5 million in 1985 and in area is the second largest country in the Arabian Peninsular.

- It has been ruled for the past 230 years by the Al bu Said family. The present ruler (also Prime Minister, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Finance) is Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, who deposed his ultra-conservative father in 1970.

  - Previously the country (then known as Muscat and Oman) had had a ruler who never left the southern capital, Salalah, and resisted all forms of change.

  - There was very little development, education and health services were rudimentary, agriculture and fisheries largely unchanged from their traditional archaic patterns, and all forms of modern communications virtually non-existent.

  - The modernisation of Oman dates from Sultan Qaboos's assumption of power.

- Population, largely rural, has traditionally formed three geographical groups - the northern coastal dwellers, including the inhabitants of Muscat; those from the inland mountain region; and the inhabitants of the ethnically separate southern region of Dhofar. A Dhofari rebellion, supported by South Yemen, officially ended six years ago.

- In religion, the majority of the Omanis are Ibadhis (a puritanical Islamic sect peculiar to Oman and parts of North Africa), 25 per cent Sunnis and 5 per cent Shi'ites (an almost entirely Indian community).

  - Oman has a tradition of tolerance towards other religions.

- The Sultan's regime is a benevolent autocracy and appears successful in reconciling the requirements of a modern state with religious and social traditions. The visible economic improvements since 1970 are a force for stability.

- Oman's administrative system is composed of the Council of Ministers (Cabinet), specialist councils, the Government of the capital and the Ministries. The Cabinet is the highest executive authority, deriving its power from the Sultan. It is collectively responsible to him. Laws and decrees are issued by the Sultan and international treaties, agreements and charters signed or approved by the Sultan became law from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

RESTRICTED

- A 45-member State Consultative Council (17 Government representatives, 17 private sector representatives, 11 regional representatives) was created in October 1981 in response to suggestions that Sultan Qaboos was not being made sufficiently aware of public opinion. In 1983 the Council's membership was increased by ten to give greater representation to the non-official sector:

  - the Council must confine its activities to questions of economic and social development, in particular in overseeing the equitable distribution of development funds among the provinces and as a watchdog against corruption;

  - it is not clear how much notice the Sultan has taken of the Council's recommendations;

  - the Council has, however, provided a useful forum for the education of non-governmental representatives who have had an opportunity to learn some of the restraints on economic and social development.

- There are some problems:

  - the Sultan has no heir or recognised successor;

  - the decision-making tends to be concentrated in his hands;

  - the reliance on British advisers, particularly in the armed forces, is declining only slowly and attracting some criticism;

  - there is also some criticism of the heavy, though well balanced, defence expenditure.

Foreign Relations

- Oman is strategically located on the Straits of Hormuz on the Persian Gulf and bordering the Arabian Sea. The Government pursues an independent foreign policy which is in most respects more pro-Western than that of other Gulf States:

  - Oman still relies heavily on seconded and recruited British military advisers;

  - in 1980 Oman began negotiations with the USA concerning a defence alliance whereby in exchange for US military and economic aid and a commitment to Oman's security, Oman would grant the USA use of port and air base facilities in the Gulf;

  - the presence of the US has been discretely maintained, and US troops are allowed to use military bases in Oman only with the agreement of the Omani government.

- The development of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the concept of regional cooperation remains a major element in Oman's foreign policy:

  - it has pushed, with some success, for a more active military role within the GCC in the light of attacks on shipping and oil facilities in the Gulf. Omani patrol boats maintain surveillance over maritime movements through the Straits of Hormuz where Iranian and Omani territorial waters overlap for some 10 kilometers;

  - however, except for Saudi Arabia and Oman, the GCC states have little military capacity to protect gulf shipping;

  - Oman does not think membership of the GCC should extend beyond the present six countries;

  - GCC membership has lead to capital inflows from Oman's richer partners, but Oman is the only GCC country requiring visas from nationals of other member countries.

- Oman supported the Camp David Accords, did not break off relations with Egypt, and on this matter has been out of step with its neighbours:

  - Oman strongly supported Jordan re-establishing diplomatic relations with Egypt.

- In September 1985, Oman established diplomatic and trade relations with the USSR:

  - Oman claims the move is evidence of Omani policy of non-alignment among world powers;

- Oman enjoys a sound working relationship with China.

- The Iran-Iraq war is of major concern to Oman. The navigation channel through the Straits of Hormuz is in Omani waters. About two thirds of the world's sea-borne trade in crude petroleum passes through the Strait. The Omanis are assiduous in patrolling the sea lanes, but their capacity to deter on aggressor in the area is limited:

  - Oman is skeptical about Gulf Arab political and military competence and has its own long term view of how to deal with Iran;

  - it is unlikely to lend its Jaguar aircraft and small but effective navy to any military effort inside the Gulf;

  - Omani refining installations are not in the Gulf and therefore less vulnerable than other GCC oil facilities to Iranian attack and would not be directly affected by interference to the flow of traffic through the Straits of Hormuz.

- **Oman took a keen interest in the January 1986 coup in PDRY** and was quick to recognise the new Democratic Yemeni regime:

  - Oman did not expect to enter into particularly cordial relations with the new regime, but was eager to impress upon the PDRY its willingness to maintain a peaceful and cooperative bilateral relationship with its southern neighbour.

- Although relations with Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf States are cordial, Oman recognises that there remain, several possible points of friction. Territorial rivalries continue to undermine regional solidarity.

Economic Situation

- Oman's economy is based largely on petroleum revenues, although recent years have brought increasing industrial diversification:

  - producing approximately 550,000 barrels a day its oil production is below that of major producers but greater than Qatar, Bahrain and the nearby Emirates of Dubai and Sharjah.

- GDP is about US$6,000 per capita. This comfortable-looking income has to be seen against a small but growing infrastructure all developed from scratch in 1970.

- Revenues from petroleum have been used to implement five year development plans which have aimed to:

  - provide the country with a sound economic infrastructure and necessary social services;

  - invest further in the petroleum sector;

  - emphasise diversification within the economy.

- Despite some recent strengthening in oil prices, Oman has been slow to adjust to low revenues and still faces problems of curbing budgetary expenditure despite its efforts to tighten financial management.

  - Oman is not a member of OPEC.

- Government expenditure was 10% lower in 1986 (US$5.07 billion) than in 1985 and 20% cuts are planned in 1987:

  - defence, which made up 31% of total expenditure is to be cut by 12-13% in 1987, with the cuts falling heavily on defence equipment purchases.

- Large budget deficits are likely to persist until the end of the decade:

  - the 1986 deficit is estimated to be approximately US$2.9 billion which may fall, due to budget cuts in 1987, to $US1.3 billion;

- the balance of trade is forecase to improve from its 1986 position of imports equalling exports to a $0.5 billion surplus in 1987 and rising surpluses thereafter due to rising oil prices and increased oil production;

- however the current account balance is forecast to remain in deficit until 1990.

- Oman will have to draw on its state reserve funds, foreign financial assets and possibly borrow overseas to finance its deficit:

  - Oman is currently viewed as a good credit risk;

  - the IMF has, however, cautioned Oman against excessive new borrowing, repayments of which could prove a major drain on foreign exchange earnings.

- The planned cuts will intensify an already serious recession and will affect the Government's ability to fund health and education projects and to maintain political loyalty, particularly in Dhofar.

Relations with Australia

- Our Ambassador to Saudi Arabia has been accredited on a non-resident basis since 1981. In August 1986, Oman established representation on a non-resident basis through its Ambassador to Japan. The Omani Ambassador presented his letters-of-credence on 6 February 1987.

- The relationship is mainly trade-based. In 1985/86 Australian exports to Oman were valued at $A57.6 million while imports were worth $A35.4 million. Our major exports are wheat, mutton/lamb, butter, barley and beer while we import petroleum, the majority of which is crude.

- Both countries have some common attitudes to strategic issues in the region:

  - Oman has generally taken a more relaxed attitude towards the Arab-Israeli dispute than most other Arab states and has generally regarded our Western strategic position as more important than our position towards Israel and the PLO.

- There is an agreement on trade, economic and technical cooperation which was signed when former Omani Minister of Trade, Muhammad Zubeir (now Senior economic adviser to the Sultan) came to Australia in 1981.

- The last Australian Minister to visit Oman was Senator Evans in September 1986.

- In 1985 there were 15 Omani students studying a range of technical and education courses in Western Australia:

- the development of this student program is hampered, however, by tertiary institutions' inability to guarantee places to Omani students once they have completed their English language studies;

- also, the opening of the Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat has reduced the need for Omanis to study abroad;

- only 6 students were known to have studied in Australia in 1986;

- if Oman is prepared to meet costs associated with required training, suitable arrangements may be made;

- should it be possible to include any nominees within the quota for subsidized overseas students (4 for Oman), some assistance may be possible:

  : arrangements would be handled by the Overseas Students Officer, Department of Education;

- should full fee (including the overseas student charge) payment be necessary. Austrade and/or Department of Education should be able to assist with arrangements.

. Oman should approach the Australian Embassy, Riyadh when requirements arise.

. Training awards under Australia's aid program have not been offered to Oman in the past and are unlikely to commence given existing commitments and competing aid priorities in region's closer to Australia.

. There have been several visits by military bands to Australia, including a large group at the Victorian 150th anniversay when Deputy Prime Minister Al-Zawawi took the salute.

- An Omani hockey team visited Australia this year. In 1984 a group of about ten young Australians were hosted to the Omani national day celebrations.

- Oman has a tall naval training ship, the "Youth of Oman", which has been invited to participate in Australia's bicentenary.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

سلطنة عمان

من قابوس بن سعيد

سلطان عمان

إلى حضرة صاحبة الجلالة الملكة اليزابيث الثانية ملكة المملكة المتحدة وايرلندا الشمالية ورئيسة الكومنولث

صديقتنا العزيزة ،

لما لنا من شديد الرغبة في توثيق عرى المحبة والصداقة التي تربط لحسن الحظ بلدينا ، فقد وقع اختيارنا على سعادة مرهون بن أحمد بن سالم المرهون ، ليكون سفيرنا فوق العادة ومفوضا غير مقيم لدى جلالتكم ، وإن ما خبرناه من ولائه وإخلاصه في خدمتنا وما عرفناه من مقدرته في المناصب التي تقلدها ليجعل لنا وطيد الأمل في أن يكون النجاح حليفه في تأدية المهمة الرفيعة التي عهدنا إليه بها .

واعتمادنا على غيرته وعلى ما سيبذل من صادق الجهد ليكون أهلا لعطف جلالتكم وحسن تقديركم ، فإننا نرجو أن تتفضلوا فتحوطوه بتأييدكم وتولوه رعايتكم وتتلقوا منه بالقبول وتمام الثقة ما يبلغه إليكم من جانبنا ولا سيما عندما يحظى بشرف الإعراب لجلالتكم عما نتمناه لشخصكم العظيم من العز والسعادة ولبلادكم وشعبكم من الرغد والسؤدد .

صدر عنا بقصرنا في مسقط بتاريخ الرابع عشر من صفر عام ١٤٠٧ الهجري
الموافق التاسع عشر من اكتوبر عام ١٩٨٦ الميلادي

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

	MEMORANDUM TO HE	FROM- DOS

SUBJECT Credentials - Oman

I hope the Omani speaks fluent English - in typical Arab tradition he proposes to give an interminable speech! The proposed reply from F.A. is also a bit lengthy but probably appropriate. It could be shortened a little by deleting the bit marked on page 3 - but the rest has substance.

In your direction please.

P DOS

5/2/87

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S REPLY TO THE REMARKS OF THE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF OMAN, ON THE PRESENTATION OF HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE

CANBERRA, 6 FEBRUARY 1987

In the name of Her Majesty The Queen of Australia and on her behalf I accept with pleasure the Letters of Credence by which His Majesty the Sultan of Oman appoints you Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Oman to Australia.

As you have observed, despite geographical separation and differing historical and cultural traditions, our two countries share similar concerns in the face of continuing international problems.

In recent days the visit of our Prime Minister to the Middle East has focussed our attention on the deep and longstanding problems of the people of the region. Australia has an active and strong interest in seeing the long standing Arab/Israeli dispute reach a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement. There can be no such settlement without full recognition of the rights of Israel to exist within secure boundaries and of the rights of the Palestinian people to self determination,

including the right, if they so chose, to independence and the possibility of their own independent state.

The Gulf War, now in its seventh year, continues to exact a high cost in human and economic resources. Australia, during its period as President of the United Nations Security Council in 1985 and 1986, tried to establish a stronger framework for peace negotiations, unfortunately without success.

The international effects of these disputes have important consequences for both Australia and Oman, each in their own way adopting a careful, balanced and far-sighted approach to their resolution.

Your Excellency,

I have noted with genuine satisfaction the progress and development of the relations between Oman and Australia. Since before the time Australia's first Ambassador was accredited to Oman in 1981, Australia and Oman have exchanged high level visits, the latest being the visit by the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Evans ~~visit~~ to Muscat in 1986. ~~which has~~ These have served to further strengthen the links between our two countries. We recall with warmth and pleasure Deputy Prime Minister Zawawi's visit to Australia in 1985.

Omanis have had a long and distinguished history as

sea-farers. As a guardian of the internationally recognised shipping lanes through the Hormuz Strait, Oman has accepted a heavy responsibility on behalf of the international community. Much of Australia's trade traverses the Indian Ocean, including nearly all of our imported oil, and we are conscious of the service which the Sultan of Oman's Navy provides in patrolling this vital Strait.

Your Excellency,

Oman's long cultural traditions stretch into history far beyond those which ~~flourished~~ have grown up in Australia following the arrival of European settlers to this ~~, the oldest~~ continent, nearly 200 years ago. Australia has become, through successive waves of migration a pluralistic and multicultural society. A large number of Arab settlers have added valuable dimensions to life in Australia, as have a wide range of other migrant groups. The year 1988 will highlight the growth of our society through our~~see~~ Bicentennial celebrations. Amongst the numerous international participants we hope to see Oman's tall ship, the naval training ship "Shabab Oman". We recall, with pleasure, the popular participation of the Omani Royal Guard Band in one of our major festivals in 1985.

Your Excellency,

In the spirit of welcome I thank your for your expressions of

warm greeting from His Majesty the Sultan ~~Qaboos~~ of Oman and take this opportunity to return my best wishes to His Majesty and the people of Oman.

I welcome you to Australia and hope that your visits to this country will realise the full promise which the good relations between our two countries contain.

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Embassy of
the Sultanate of Oman
Japan - Tokyo

سفارة سلطنة عمان
في اليابان
طوكيو

Ref.: ..... الرقم: .....

Date: ..... التاريخ: .....

Excellency,

I have the great honour to present to YOU the Credentials, accrediting me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to The Commonwealth of Australia.

- On this auspicious occasion, the very first task I am pleased to perform, is to convey to Your Excellency the warmest greetings from His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Saied, Sultan of Oman, together with the expression of his highest esteem. I am also proud of the trust His Majesty has bestowed upon me in appointing me Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to your country and to work for the promotion of the good relations existing between our two countries.

Mr. Governor-General,

- It is with a sence of profound and gratitude and genuine honour that I am today introducing myself to Your Excellency, fully aware of the noble purpose and importance of the mission conferred on me as the very first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Sultanate of Oman to Australia.

- I duly appreciate the privilege thus bestowed upon me by having been given the opportunity and responsibility to represent and serve my country in a country prominent

not only by its vastness, beauty and vigor of its people but, more over by the qualities and high moral values that it upholds in a divided troubled and suffering world.

- Indeed Australia is now more than ever a land commanding worldwide attention as an emblem of vigour, health both physical and moral, serenity and faith. Such scarce qualities appear to have become as unattainable as a mirage for mankind nowadays equally for the "haves" and the "have not's" through out the world.

- The harmony, tranquility and tolerance exhibited by your society generate worldwide respect and undoubtedly a beacon of hope in a world submerged in anguish and pessisism.

- On this occasion may I extend to the Australian nation, through Your Excellency, a message of congratulations and admiration from the Omani People for the progress and development of your peace loving nation.

Mr. Govenor-General,

- I am proud of the trust His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Saied has bestowed upon me in appointing me Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to your country and to work for the promotion of the good relations existing between our two countries.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Embassy of
the Sultanate of Oman
Japan - Tokyo

سفارة سلطنة عمان
في اليابان
طوكيو

Ref.: ..... الرقم: .....

Date: ..... التاريخ: .....

- It is my very sincere conviction Mr. Governor-General, that despite the geographical distance separating our two countries and the historical and cultural differences between them, our two nations are in fact, very close to each other in seeking the same destiny since they both aspire the same ideals of freedom, democracy and justice.

- Oman is a country with a proud and ancient culture, has contributed and will continue to contribute to the development of civilization, and to the cause of peace and cooperation between nations.

- Oman has unceasingly expanded considerable efforts in order to uphold its traditional commitment to stability and equilibrium. It is according to these principles that my government wishes to develop the most vigorous and fruitful relations with your country.

Thus, Oman is looking forward to cooperate fully with Australia to reduce tensions in Asia, the Middle East and the world in general.

In this respect I refer particularly to the Middle East region, which remains in dire need of politically justified solution to its minifold problems.

Just, and lasting solution must be found to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, who are subjected to injustice, intolerance and aggression.

- The devastating war of the Gulf region between Iraq and Iran over the last six years is also a matter of grave and far reaching concern, which threatens entirely the Gulf area and the rest of the world.

- OMAN and AUSTRALIA, as peace loving nations, must act in unison for the development of a new world, based upon reconciliation between human beings; generosity of spirit and respect for human rights and the essential dignity of all.

Excellency Mr. Govenor-General,

- Bearing in mind great responsibility of carring out my exciting mission, to deepen mutual friendship and understanding between our peoples, I will spare no effort so as to earn, I hope, the benevolence of YOUR Excellency and the support of the authorities in this friendly country.

- While extending my best wishes to Your Excellency, Please allow me, Mr. Govenor-General to also express the hope that the Australian People will enjoy an everlasting prosperous, tranquil and happy life.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Embassy of
the Sultanate of Oman
Japan - Tokyo

سفارة سلطنة عمان
في اليابان
طوكيو

Ref.: ..... الرقم: .....

Date: ..... التاريخ: .....

- Finally, I have the honour to convey to YOUR EXCELLENCY the best wishes of HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAIED, AS WELL OF THE Government and the People of OMAN, to YOU and to the Government and People of Australia.

Thank you.

****

Government House,
Canberra ACT 2600.

1 August 1986

My dear Minister,

I approve the nomination of Mr Marhoon bin Ahmed bin Salim Al Marhoon as the first Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Australia as recommended in your recent letter.

Yours sincerely,

N. M. STEPHEN

The Honourable Bill Hayden, M.P.,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

N.F.
P/A

IN CONFIDENCE

R/2171

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

His Excellency the Right Honourable
Sir Ninian Stephen, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE
Governor-General of Australia
Government House
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

OFFICE OF THE
31 JUL 1986
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Your Excellency,

The Sultanate of Oman wishes to appoint Mr Marhoon bin Ahmed bin Salim Al Marhoon as the first Ambassador of Oman to Australia. Mr Marhoon, who is currently Ambassador of Oman to Japan, would be accredited to Australia on a non-resident basis.

Mr Marhoon was born in 1944 and after completing his Secondary education, spent eight years with two construction companies in Saudi Arabia. He entered the Foreign Ministry in 1974 and was posted as Third Secretary, later Second Secretary, to Cairo. In 1978 he was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Muscat. In 1982, he was appointed Assistant Head of the Department of European and American Affairs. Mr Marhoon was appointed Ambassador to Japan in 1984.

Mr Marhoon is married with two children.

No objection is seen to the proposed appointment. I recommend that Your Excellency approve the nomination.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Hayden

BILL HAYDEN M.P.

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

Governor-General

1/8/86

IN CONFIDENCE